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1954

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

of

the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council	-	J.O. Jenkins.
Vice-Chairman	-	J.P. Scott.
Health & Housing Committee Chairman	-	J.P. Scott.
Rating Committee Chairman	-	Sir R.C.G. Cotterell Bt.
Finance Committee Chairman	-	Brig. S T. Polley.
Water & Sewerage Committee Chairman	-	Capt. H.A. Gilbert.

PARISH	COUNCILLORS
ALMELEY	W.G. Jenkins.
BIRLEY	E.F. Harris.
BISHOPSTONE	Capt H.A. Gilbert.
Blakemere	L.W. Jones.
BRIDGE SOLLARS & BYFORD.	R. Wrigh
BRINSOP & WORMESLEY	Sir W.L. Bailey Bt.
BROBURY & MONNINGTON-ON-WYE	A.I. Lewis.
CANON PYON	D.G. Bulmer J.H. Yeomans
DILWYN	J.O. Jenkins. H G.J. Havard.
EARDISLAND & STRETFORD	H.T. PATRICK. L.E. Thomas. R. Morgan.
KINGS PYON	Major W.R.D. Verdin.
KINNERSLEY & SARNESFIELD	T.G. Davies.
LETTON	A.E. Price.
MANSEL GAMAGE	Sir R.C.G. Cotterell Bt.
MANSEL LACY	Brigadier S.T. Polley.
MOCCAS	Sir W.T. Cornewall Bt.
NORTON CANON	J L. Hughes.
PRESTON-ON-WYE	W.J. Whiting.
STAUNTON-ON-WYE	C. Richards.
Weobley	W.T. Jay. J.P. Scott.
YAZOR	Major J.L. Davenport.

Clerk of the Council	C.G. Williams.
Medical Officer of Health.	I.F. MacKenzie M.D. (Edin.) D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
Sanitary Inspector.	L. Morley M.R.S I., M.S.I.A. Cert. Meat & other Foods.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report for 1954.

The health of the community in general remains good and there were no major outbreaks of notifiable diseases in spite of the cold and wet summer and autumn.

OUTBREAKS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Eighty-one cases of whooping cough were brought to the notice of the authority but they occurred intermittently throughout the first nine months of the year. The ten cases of Dysentery represent a localised outbreak among persons resident in Foxley Housing Estate who were infected almost certainly through domestic associations. Only sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever occurred - all were mild, as is usual nowadays.

POLIOMYELITIS

It will be recalled that in July of last year advice was received from the Ministry of Health on the precautions that should now be taken to try to prevent the spreading of Poliomyelitis following notification of a case. New evidence on probable channels by which the virus of Polomyelitis is disseminated throughout the community from isolated pockets of infection surrounding the first notified cases, has led to the decision to introduce quarantine measures on home contacts for a period of three weeks from the occurrence of the disease. It is hoped that during the three weeks' quarantine, the virus will disappear naturally from the healthy contacts who may be carrying it. Though this measure should prove of benefit to the community, it is bound to inflict hardship on some people, particularly on those adults who, though in good health, are prevented from following their normal occupation for the three weeks quarantine period, and thus suffer substantial reductions in income.

HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954

A notable event of 1954 was the coming into force of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act which requires the Council to prepare a programme for the replacement of property in the district that is unfit for human habitation and to state the numbers of such houses that we expect to be able to deal with during the coming five years. As no full housing survey has yet been undertaken in our district, it will not be possible to submit more than provisional figures to the Ministry by the end of August, 1955. From what we already know of housing conditions in the district, it is clear that a problem of some magnitude and considerable complexity will face the Council when the time comes to implement the relevant portions of this housing act.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES & BUTCHERS SHOPS

The cessation of Meat rationing and the termination of the central control of the slaughter and of the distribution of Meat on July 31st, after only quite short notice from the Ministry of Food, led to applications for the re-opening of two of the three small slaughter-houses that operated within the district before the war. Both of them are within the village of Weobley. The position was complicated by the announcement that the Ministry intended to implement it's policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities within the coming years. It was considered that this policy would, without doubt, lead to the closing, on grounds of redundancy, of all the small abattoirs such as those in Weobley; so the minimum in the way of alterations and improvements that could be required, was demanded from the applicants for the re-

lic encing of slaughter-houses.

Three butchers shops were licenced in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 14(i)(B) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The unsatisfactory circumstances surrounding the sale of meat in Foxley Housing Estate have not altered during the year even though representations were made earlier to the Hereford City Council regarding the conversion of a hut to shop premises. The financial outlay that the butcher concerned would need to face, has detered him from accepting the Council's offer.

MILK SUPPLIES

The control of milk supplies devolves mainly on the Ministry of Agriculture and is effected through the National Agricultural Advisory Service. So far as is possible, samples of ungraded milk sold retail within the district, are submitted quarterly for biological examination to detect the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. The efforts of the appropriate Ministry to popularise the tuberculin testing of cattle has had a marked effect during recent years in reducing the retail sale of milk from non-attested animals.

A gratifying feature of this trend was the extension of the sale of Pasteurised milk within the district from the Marlbrook Milk Factory, Leominster.

Schools milk is sampled quarterly on behalf of the Education Authority.

FOOD PREMISES.

Premises within the area are as follows:-

Bakehouses	"	"	3
Butchers' shops	"	"	3
Grocers' shops	"	"	21
Inns and Hotels	"	"	23
Snack Bars	"	"	1

Routine inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. Foods found to be unfit for human consumption are surrendered by the owners and destroyed.

ICE CREAM

All ice cream sold within the area is obtained pre-packed from large manufacturers.

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED FOR HOP-PICKERS.

A marked reduction in the number of pickers making use of the quarters provided at farms in the district was observed this year. Inspections were carried out during the season, and on one occasion your Officers were accompanied by Dr. Cauchi, of the Ministry of Health.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The scheme operated by the Council is proving to be a great boom to householders, not only in the villages, but in the countryside in general.

DISINFECTION.

Terminal Disinfection for infectious disease is carried out when necessary. Formalin Gas or Sulphur Dioxide is used.

RODENT CONTROL

The council's Rodent Inspector is employed on a half-time basis. The remainder of his time is devoted to similar duties for the Dore and Bredwardine Rural District Council.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Weobley Water Scheme is at present the only public supply in the district, if one excludes the several small independent supplies provided by the Council at the various housing sites. The method of chlorinating the Weobley Water, having not been all that your officers would desire, proposals for the installation of more modern equipment were submitted to the Council and approved.

The greater portion of the district is still dependent on wells and springs; though there are small private piped supplies in four parishes (Eardisland, Mansel Gamage, Canon Pyon and Staunton-on-Wye); and a number of dwellings in Mansel Lacy, Yazor and Byford receive water from the Foxley Camp Supply.

The comprehensive piped water scheme approved by the Council in January, 1953, under the Rural Supplies and Sewarage Act, 1944, and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, was still under consideration at the Ministry at the time of writing this report. That a County Water Board may be formed is regarded as distinctly possible in view of the support given to the proposal by the Ministry and by the County Council as well as by at least two District Councils.

HOUSING

Reference has already been made to the duties imposed on Council by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

During the year the construction of the 19 Council Houses at Eardisland was proceeded with; and the site works preparatory to the erection of new houses at Burton Wood, Weobley, were carried out. Further schemes that were still in the preparatory stages at the end of the year are Almeley (13 houses), Dilwyn (4 houses), Canon Pyon (24 houses), Norton Canon (12 houses) and Staunton-on-Wye(32 houses.

It is expected that the Almeley and the Dilwyn houses will be completed in 1955.

COUNCIL OFFICES.

The conversion of part of Whitehill House for office accommodation and for committee and council rooms was almost completed by the end of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1954 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of forty-five males and thirty-seven females who normally reside within the district.

During the year seven new cases were notified, all on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis; and ten persons suffering from Tuberculosis moved into the district from other districts.

During the same period four persons suffering from T.B. left the district,four died, and two recovered.

ANALYSES OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Age of Patient								
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	11	-	1	-	-	14
Whooping Cough	3	17	25	28	4	1	3	-	81
Measles	1	7	3	7	-	1	-	-	19
Pneumonia	-	1	2	2	1	-	2	-	8
Dysentery	-	2	-	4	-	-	4	-	10
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-	1	-	1	5	-	7
Malaria Contracted abroad.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children who were primarily immunised against diphtheria in the 12 months ended 31st December, 1954, and those who were given a reinforcing injection are shown in the following table according to age groups.

Age at date of final injection				Reinforcing injections.
Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total	
44	47	25	116	160

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	2	7
Diabetes	3	1	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	2	9
Coronary disease, angina	7	2	9
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart disease	7	3	10
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Ulcers of Stomach & Duodenum	1	2	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	9	12
Accidents (road etc.)	3	-	3
All causes.....			79

In conclusion I would again tender my sincere appreciation of your confidence and support throughout the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. F. MacKenzie

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH